

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Irrigated Agriculture Initiatives

Irrigation Pump Testing Pilot Program

The Bonneville Power Administration's goal for the Irrigation Pump Testing Pilot Program is to hire qualified contractors to conduct approximately 200 irrigation pump and/or pump system tests in the 2005 and 2006 irrigation seasons. The target market is utility service areas with significant irrigation loads and Conservation Augmentation agreements (similar to the Industrial Focus effort) or areas with remaining Conservation and Renewables Discount budgets.

The purpose of this pilot is to:

- Create more demand for irrigation pump/system testing;
- Expand vendor infrastructure;

BPA developed a pre-screening tool to determine which level of test to perform, if any. After the screening phase, the utility should submit a request for pump testing to BPA. BPA Energy Efficiency staff, who are experienced in irrigated agriculture, will work with the Energy Efficiency Representative assigned to the utility to review the request and arrange for pump-testing services.

Pre-selected contractors (under contract to Energy Efficiency) will be paid a set amount for each test level completed according to BPA specifications. Utilities and consumers will pay the balance of testing costs, which include travel expenses to and from test sites.

A pilot program evaluation planned for late 2006 will determine how many of the tests result in energy efficiency improvement projects during the 2005-2006 period. The results of the evaluation will help determine if the pump-testing service is an effective mechanism for identifying and implementing irrigation conservation acquisition projects in the agriculture sector.

Conservation Augmentation Irrigated Agriculture (IR/AG) Program

The ConAug IR/AG Program is an agriculture standard offer program that provides irrigators with rebates for installing energy efficient sprinkler retrofits. BPA works with manufacturers, wholesale distributors and vendors to encourage market transformation to *best practices* in irrigation methods and equipment.

The ConAug IR/AG program is the likely vehicle for post-2006 conservation bilateral agreements in this sector.

If you would like more information about this pilot program, please contact your Energy Efficiency Representative, or Becky Clark at 503-230-3158.

